



The Institute for Early Learning and Emerging Literacy

Fall 2002 ...

Fairfax County Office for Children Leading the Way to Early Literacy!

Update

More on children's literacy inside!

- Storytelling Tips
- Choosing Books
- "Environmental" Print
- Make a Food Book!
- Training

Guide Children to Reading Success!

Simple, everyday activities we do with young children can help them become successful readers and writers when they enter school. These easy-to-follow guidelines will guide the children in your care towards reading success:

Talk to Children! The more we talk to young children – especially during the first three years – the better. They gain confidence in their verbal abilities and learn that language is fun and gets results. Talk to children about what they do and what you do during the day. Respond to children when they talk to you.

Read to Children Every Day. Reading to children develops their vocabulary and teaches them about their world. It also introduces them to reading concepts like turning pages and reading from left to right. Most of all, it is fun for children and helps them develop positive feelings about reading.

Share the World of Print with Children. We live in a world filled with print that you can use to help children understand reading and writing concepts. When you see a stop sign point out the letter "S." Do the same with other familiar letters and words in the signs, labels, menus, magazines, books and other printed materials that surround us. Show children letters and words printed in other languages.

Repeat, Repeat, and Repeat! Repetition helps develop the mental skills children need for reading. Repeat familiar phrases like "time for a snack" or "let's go to the park." Read and re-read stories. Practice a new nursery rhyme throughout the day.

Surround Children with Books. Children love to have familiar books nearby that they can go back to again and again. Books do not need to be expensive. You can purchase them at yard sales and thrift stores, or borrow them from the library. Let children make their own books from photographs and drawings. Get children involved in choosing their books on subjects that interest them.



Tell Me a Story

Storytelling is one of most enjoyable ways to help children on their way to literacy. Listening to stories helps children develop an understanding of sequence (how words are put together to form sentences), learn new vocabulary words, increase attention span, and begin to understand the boundaries between fantasy and reality. Here are some things to consider when telling stories to children:

- Use the children's names as characters in the story.
- Tell stories about yourself or other important people in the children's lives.
- Use props such as puppets to keep children's attention.
- Involve the children through actions or by repeating phrases.
- Retell children's favorite storybooks without using the books.
- Use a different voice for each character and add sound effects.
- Keep notes about the children's favorite stories so you can retell them when asked.

"After lunchtime we sit on a blanket and read."

Emma Adjety-Doku, Child Care Provider

Choosing Books for Children

Providing quality literature for young children helps them to understand the world in which they live, helps to develop their reading skills and enhances their enjoyment of reading. These guidelines will help you make good choices.

For infants and toddlers select:

- Durable cloth or board picture books
- Black and white or brightly colored illustrations
- Simple pictures and stories of familiar things
- Nursery rhymes and other rhyming books
- ABC and number books
- Information books about space, planes, cars, nature and things children fear
- Books in the native languages of the children in your care
- Books that show respect for people and customs from a variety of cultures

For preschool and older children select:

- Stories that have meaning and interest for children
- Pretend stories about animals that resemble people

"I usually put the children on my lap and show the pictures at the same time as I'm reading so they understand better what I am reading. I make sure the book is appropriate for their age."

Dina Guzman, Child Care Provider

Words on Our World

Children see print everywhere they look -- on signs, at stores, on labels and menus. This "environmental" print has meaning for young children. Children point to the print and ask about it even before they become interested in books. Here are some simple ways to include print in your child care home. Use print that:

- Says what things are or where things belong. *(For example, children's names on coat hooks, labels that say crayons or paper to help remind children which shelf holds which item.)*
- Provides information *(for example, recipe charts or story dictations on children's art work).*
- Asks children to respond. (For example, "What kind of fruit do you like?")

"I take three letter words from the books we read, like cat, dog, bus, and car, and write them in big letters on flashcards for the children"

Nora Sanabria, Child Care Provider

Make Your Own Book About Food!

You could buy a picture book of food for children. But, with so many colorful food pictures available on the food containers we bring home everyday from the grocery store, why not help children create a book about food of their own!

What You Need:

- Empty food containers or labels brought in by the children (for example, cereal, rice, or pasta boxes or labels from tins of fruit).
- Scissors, paper, and glue

Activity:

- Cut food pictures from the containers or labels and paste them onto paper. (Heavy construction paper works best.)

- Put the sheets of paper together to form a book. (Punch holes in the paper and use string or yarn to keep the sheets together or use tape.)
- "Read" the book to the children and talk about the pictured foods.
- Leave the book out for children to enjoy.



USDA Point of Service Reminder ... Please remember to record meals and attendance during meals or before the next meal is served to children. Accurate records ensure full and prompt payment.

Training Offerings

GROWING YOUR CHILD CARE BUSINESS

Explore news ways to run a successful child care business.

Thursday, October 17, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pennino Building, Room 734

12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

Thursday, December 5, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Mason Government Center

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

GROWING YOUR CHILD CARE BUSINESS: THE NEXT STEP

Discover new skills. Make your child care business grow to the next level.

Saturday, November 16, 2002

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center

1086 Elden Street, Herndon

The ABC's of Second-Hand Smoke

Explore ways to eliminate second-hand smoke from your child care home.

Saturday, October 5, 2002

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center

1086 Elden Street, Herndon

CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE SEMINAR

Understand what child abuse is and your legal responsibilities.

Thursday, November 7, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Reston Regional Library

11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston

WHAT EVERY PROVIDER MUST

KNOW WHEN CARING FOR INFANTS

Understand current knowledge about the causes of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Shaken Baby Syndrome. Learn prevention techniques.

Saturday, October 19, 2002

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Mason Government Center

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Saturday, November 16, 2002

9:00 a.m. - Noon

South County Center

Room 221 C

8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Understand fire safety. (Presented by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue.)

Saturday, December 7, 2002

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Massey Building

A Level Conference Room

4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax

CHILD AND ADULT CARE

FOOD PROGRAM ORIENTATION

Learn how the Child Care Food Program can benefit your family child care business.

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pennino Building, Room 734

12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Franconia Governmental Center,

6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

Wednesday, December 18, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pennino Building, Room 734

12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

INTERNET MINUTE MENU

Learn how to file your USDA Child Care Food Program Claims over the internet.

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pennino Building, Room 240

12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Human Services Building, Room 507

6245 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

Thursday, December 12, 2002

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Pennino Building, Room 240

12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

**To register, call
(703) 324-8000.**



The Institute for Early Learning and Emerging Literacy

Welcome!

The Institute for Early Learning and Emerging Literacy is a new education initiative from the Fairfax County Office for Children.

The Institute offers child care providers new workshops and training classes to help build an understanding of how young children become readers and writers.

See the Fall 2002 Milestones in Learning brochure for more details on Institute offerings.